

MEETING MINUTES
Town of Heath
BOARD OF SELECTMEN
Community Hall
February 18, 2014

Called to order at 7:08 p.m. by Sheila Litchfield with Bill Lattrell, Brian DeVriese and Kara Leistyna, Town Coordinator present.

Reviewed Agenda: Added to Other Business: Feasibility Study Award.

Sheila explained reason for Kris Nartowicz coming tonight. Three houses are in tax title and Kris would like to discuss and get a sense of how to proceed.

Kris Nartowicz, Treasurer, arrive at 7:15 p.m.

Tax Taking Properties: One possibility, in an effort to take property yet enable residents to maintain living there, is to rent it to them. Kris contacted the attorney to see if a similar situation has occurred in other towns. Greenfield has had some cases taken in land court but ‘tenants’ lived rent free. A payment can be requested, perhaps \$100 per month and a promise to pay current taxes to show good faith. Upon death, the property can then be taken. Kris has researched abutters and looked at the maps. An upcoming property may result in demolition. If there are environmental issues, this could impact the Town as it would be the responsible party to aid in clean-up efforts. Board of Health and Finance Committee should be involved in discussions. Kris will discuss further with attorney to formulate options for a solution and she will keep the Board of Selectmen apprised.

7:30 p.m. Kris left the meeting and Finance Committee members Don Freeman, Ned Wolf, Kathy Inman, and Jeff Simmons entered.

STM Warrant: Finance Committee, after reviewing the draft warrant, shared two concerns. They felt that the Veteran’s Benefit account should be used conservatively and shortfalls in highway accounts should be replenished with other highway accounts. Some adjustments were made to the warrant. Finance Committee left the meeting at 7:43 p.m. but will re-join later in the evening to discuss MTRSD budget proposal.

Reviewed minutes: *On a motion by Brian DeVriese and seconded by Bill Lattrell, the Board voted unanimously to approve the minutes of the 2/4/14 Select Board meeting as amended.*

7:55 p.m. Bob Gruen, School Committee member arrived and Finance Committee members returned at 8:05 p.m.

School Committee: Discussed MTRSD proposed budget for FY15 and Capital Plan. Phase II of the plan includes the Heath School roof. There may be MSBA (Mass. School Building Authority) money available. Bob shared that some people on the school committee disagreed with entering into agreement with MSBA. Discussed proposed technology plans and use of Google docs that will result in less equipment and less expense. It is believed that using this system will promote consistency in all classrooms school-wide. Discussed staffing needs as well as proposed changes to cafeteria staffing and meal program. Breakfast and lunch will be catered from another elementary school. A cold breakfast will be served and a hot lunch. A question was asked about the use of Heath garden to provide vegetables and this will continue to be used. Pondered how this could generate a savings as it includes off-site preparation, transport, serving, clean-up. Also, discussed who would be in charge and how will food be prepared ensuring safe food practices. Hearing is scheduled for Wednesday. Reviewed questions that will

be asked including central office staffing and where is reduction? Transportation is a big ticket item because only one bidder for contract. Discussed how assessments are calculated. Prepared for public hearing scheduled for 2/26/14.

9:10 p.m. Bob Gruen left meeting.

Resumed discussion with Finance Committee: Reviewed STM warrant articles and revised wording of articles to reflect use of Roadside Mowing rather than Veteran's Benefits account which can be replenished in May if needed.

On a motion by Brian DeVriese and seconded by Bill Lattrell, the Board voted unanimously to approved the Special Town Meeting warrant with Finance Committee recommendations.

Discussion on Stabilization Accounts tabled till a later meeting.

Reviewed agenda for 3/11/14 Special Town Meeting and announcement of Special Presentation. Kara will include Town Clerk in agenda for review of special bylaw project and funding needs for completion.

9:21 p.m. Finance Committee members left meeting.

Mail/ Email:

1. Correspondence with Mike Smith regarding winter issues and accounts. Issues are under control and Mike is handling management issues.
2. Email from Jan Ameen regarding 2013 tonnage rates and recycling and trash rates. Kara will forward to recycling committee.
3. Email notice from Phoebe Walker regarding CPHS Oversight Board meeting 2/26
4. Email letter to Michael J. Altieri, Legal Counsel regarding Municipal Aggregation Plan with HCOG – no action
5. Email from Reva Reck regarding WiredWest Progress Report and info. on Network Financing Meetings. Al Canali would like you to know the meeting has been postponed due to weather to March 19 same place and time. He would like someone from Finance Comm. and Select Board to attend. Kara will forward notice to Finance Committee.
6. Email from accountant regarding Collecting Fees (BOH) change and new bank account. Kara will find out if this affects Heath.
7. Emails from Debbie Cavalier – no action
8. Email from Bill Lattrell regarding Proposed FY15 Budget
9. General Fund REVENUE report as of 1/31/14 and other financial reports
10. Email from Sheila regarding Hawlemont EDS team meeting 2/20
11. Emails from Alyssa Larose regarding Community Meeting – Forestry Discussion 3/5 at Community Hall (and flyer)
12. Email from Mark Reich – he is on vacation
13. Note from FRCOG announcing completion of FCFCA Fire Service Study – the final report can be viewed on FRCOG website (Mike has the hard copy).

Other Separate Documents:

- Town Coordinator report
- A) Kara will forward meeting announcement for US Forestry Designation.
- B) Re: carpet in Sawyer Hall foyer: Due to mildew smell, this carpet shall be pulled out and replaced in the spring.
- MTRSD Budget Proposal FY15

Other Business:

1. Town Coordinator Job Classification: After individual re-rating of the job, based on the revised job description, by all Select Board members, the Town Coordinator position has been re-rated from a Grade 12 to a Grade 18 for FY15. The starting hourly wage for FY14 Grade 18 is \$23.81/hour.
2. Feasibility Study Update: After study has been completed, a presentation will be available to voters at ATM. Brian will discuss with Doug Wilkins.

Signed:

1. Weekly Warrants
2. STM Warrant
3. Letter to Reinhardt Associates, Inc. (Feasibility Study)
4. Bill Schedule
5. Vacation Request

On a motion by Bill Lattrell and seconded by Sheila Litchfield, the Board voted unanimously to adjourn at 10:25 p.m.

Next meeting scheduled for February 25, 2014 at 7:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Kara Leistyna, Town Coordinator